

# FORM C – OBJECT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

39/53	Boston North	D	911
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**Town:** Lexington

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): Munroe Tavern Historic District

**Address or Location:** 1412 Massachusetts Avenue

**Name:** British Retreat Marker

**Ownership:**  Public  Private

**Type of Object** (*check one*):

- statue
- bust
- group composition
- religious shrine
- other (*specify*)
- monument
- milestone
- marker
- boundary marker

**Date of Construction:** 1884

**Source:** *Historic Monuments & Tablets Erected by the Town*

**Designer/Sculptor:** NA

**Materials:** granite

**Alterations** (*with dates*):

Date? – gilding removed/worn off

**Condition:** good

**Moved:**  no  yes Date

**Acreage:** NA

**Setting:** sidewalk south of Bloomfield Street

**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Oct. 2009

## Photograph



## Topographic or Assessor's Map



# INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

MASS AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

911

\_\_\_ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

## DESIGN ASSESSMENT

*Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

Marker is a simple low rectangular block of rough granite 30" x 20" x 6". Inscription is incised into the smooth face.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.*

At town meeting in March 1884 a historical committee on monuments was established to mark historic sites in the town of Lexington. This monument was one of three memorial stones erected to identify places of importance in the story of the British retreat on April 19, 1775. The other two related sites were Fiske Hill and the Hayward Well, both now located within the Minute Man National Historic Park. Other monuments erected by the committee include the Stone Cannon at 1475 Massachusetts Avenue, the Battle Line Boulder on the Green and the Meetinghouses Marker on the Green.

This marker was placed in the wall on Massachusetts Avenue, a little south of Bloomfield Street, near the spot where the Mulliken house and shop were burned by the British. It notes that a British field piece was planted on the hill to the south by Earl Percy. The other field piece was located near the former Muzzey School and is marked by the stone cannon in the front yard. During the retreat, Percy briefly used the Munroe Tavern as a field hospital.

## ENTIRE INSCRIPTION *(if applicable):*

ON THE HILL TO THE SOUTH  
WAS PLANTED  
ONE OF THE BRITISH FIELD PIECES  
APRIL 19, 1775  
TO COMMAND THE VILLAGE  
AND ITS APPROACHES  
AND NEAR THIS PLACE  
SEVERAL BUILDINGS WERE BURNED

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

*Historic Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Town of Lexington 1884.* Lexington: 1884, p. 9-10.